

through the years, and I have appreciated having someone who knows the many people who have been important to us throughout my career. Martha's unsurpassed character and dedication have allowed me to trust her with confidential and sensitive materials and to do so with great confidence.

Martha's spirit is demonstrated by her commitment to family as well. She cares for her father at home and is a wonderful aunt to her many nieces and nephews. I know she is looking forward to spending even more time with her large family as she begins a new chapter in her life.

While our work together will soon end, Martha will always remain an important person in our lives. As she looks to new opportunities, I wish Martha all the best, and look forward to her continued friendship in the years to come.

THE LOSS OF LES HIRSCH

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the death of Les Hirsch. Mr. Hirsch made an indelible mark on my community in Tampa Bay.

Over the 50 year period that Mr. Hirsch lived in Tampa, he took on a few different roles. In 1960 he became a stockbroker. Many of the brokers still practicing in my community got their start when Mr. Hirsch hired them. Former employees describe him as "upbeat, with a very sharp mind" and "a mentor, inspiration and a role model." And through his love of politics, he inspired one of them to seek public office. Mr. Hirsch helped on his successful campaign for City Council in 1991.

In the late 1970s, Mr. Hirsch was appointed to the Tampa Port Authority and then to the Tampa Sports Authority. When Tampa hosted its first Super Bowl in 1984, Mr. Hirsch contributed to the effort to secure our city as the location. As we ready our city to welcome Super Bowl fans again this season, I regret that we won't have his expertise this time around.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Hirsch's death on October 31st marked a great loss to his wife Gail, his sons, Rabbi David Hirsch and his wife, Margot, and Andrew Hirsch and his wife, Tricia, his daughter, Beth Hirsch, and his six grandchildren, as well as the entire Tampa Bay area.

A TRIBUTE TO THE EXEMPLARY HISTORY OF PUBLIC EDUCATION IN THE TOWN OF KILLINGLY, CONNECTICUT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the exemplary history of public education in the town of Killingly, Connecticut.

This year, the town of Killingly celebrates the 300th anniversary since its incorporation in 1708. Equally inspiring, it celebrates the 150th anniversary of its public education system. The development of public education in Kill-

ingly has been a microcosm of the region, the state of Connecticut, and country as a whole—it is a model of progress.

From a time when providing free education to the public was a visionary innovation to a time when teacher shortages plagued the country when teachers were drafted to serve in World War II, Killingly's education system persevered and thrived.

The mission outlined by the town of Killingly for its school system includes as a high priority fostering citizenship in our Nation's next generation. Moreover, Killingly's contribution to citizenship is not confined to the classroom. I was proud to see pictures of the high school marching band in a Veterans' Day parade. Killingly's commitment to community and progress is certain to continue to energize its education system for another 150 years.

I am pleased to see Killingly's strong commitment to education, evolving over many generations. I know Connecticut will continue to benefit from Killingly's progress for generations to come.

RECOGNITION AND THANKS TO MICHAEL J. CRONIN

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. LARSON. Madam Speaker, I rise to thank Michael Cronin for his three years of dedicated service to the House as Office Director of the Office of the Historian. Michael first came to the House in 1986 as an intern and then upon graduation from college, joined the office of former Rep. Timothy J. Penny of Minnesota. He left Capitol Hill in 1990 but returned in 2005 to serve as Office Director for the reestablished Office of the Historian, under the direction of Dr. Robert Remini and Dr. Fred Beuttler. This month, Michael will continue his service to the People's House as the Administrative Director of the Office of the Inspector General.

Madam Speaker, we, as Members, are indeed fortunate to have the services of talented individuals like Michael Cronin. I know I join the Historian of the House, Dr. Robert V. Remini, and the staff of the Office of the Historian in wishing him my best as he begins this new position.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF KENNETH T. JONES, JR.

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join the people of Guam in mourning the death of a great son of America and community leader in the Pacific where, for the last sixty three years, he lived, worked and built a business empire. Born in the small town of Willow Springs, North Carolina, on November 22, 1917, Kenneth T. Jones, Jr. will be remembered for his contributions to our community.

"Ken", as he was fondly known to his family, friends and associates, was the consum-

mate business adventurer, always searching for new opportunities and always willing to venture into new endeavors where he sensed success was certain. That business sense convinced him that prospects would arise on Guam, a small Pacific island he temporarily visited as a Navy Chief Petty Officer with the 25th Seabees during World War II. Hearing the slogan, "Guam, Crossroads of the Pacific", Ken instinctively saw great future potentials for those who were willing to work hard and had the spirit to succeed.

Ken befriended Segundo "Sy" Leon Guerrero, a young Guamanian he met during his short stay on the island. Ken and Sy had many discussions about the future and planned for Ken's return to Guam when they would become business partners. But even while he was waiting for the opportunity to return to the island, Ken would purchase small items to send to Sy who sold them from his small Quonset hut in Sinajana, which would eventually become the first Town House Department Store under the partnership called Jones and Guerrero Company Incorporated, immediately coined "J & G" throughout the Pacific.

Under the Chairmanship of Ken Jones, J & G rapidly expanded into several areas where Ken felt there was a need on island. After Town House and upon his return to Guam in 1946, J & G Repair Shop opened, a natural fit for Jones who was an automotive mechanic in the Seabees. Other businesses quickly followed: from companies which supplied construction materials, built modular homes and a residential subdivision (Jonestown) to the bottling of soft drinks (Pepsi Cola Bottling Co.) and J & G Payless Supermarkets. To supply his many companies, Ken established Pacific Navigation Company, agents for ocean going freight liners calling ports in Australia, Asia, the Philippines, China and other islands in Micronesia.

Ken's business acumen motivated him to build Cliff Properties Development, one of the island's first hotels; and the Guam Hilton Hotel, Guam's first major chain hotel. Ken Jones' business interests and ventures were not confined to Guam. Ken built and operated the Royal Taga Hotel, the first hotel in Saipan, CNMI, as well as the Bar K cattle ranch in Tinian, CNMI. He operated thoroughbred race horse ranches and stables in Australia and the bluegrass country of Kentucky. He also built and operated a considerable shopping mall in his home state of North Carolina. Ken Jones' success as a businessman created within him a sense of philanthropy to which he devoted much personal time, effort, energy and considerable financial resources. These include leadership roles and membership in such organizations as the American Red Cross; the American Cancer Society; the Guam Chapters of the American Boy and Girl Scouts; the Guam Vocational Rehabilitation Workshop; the Boards and Trustees of several private schools, including St. John's Episcopal School, the Academy of Our Lady of Guam; the Guam Lytico-Bodig Association; the Make-a-Wish Foundation; and the American Heart and Lung Association.

Ken's efforts and successes as a premier businessman have always been recognized by the people of Guam and the entire business community of the Pacific Basin. This recognition culminated in his induction into the Guam Business Hall of Fame on May 2, 1992. In